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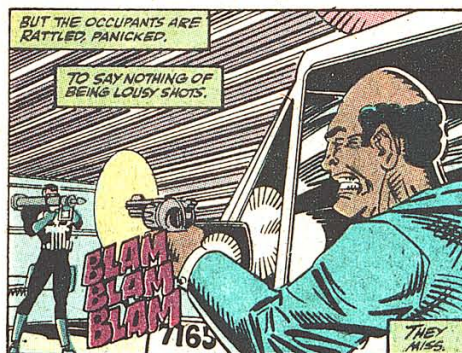
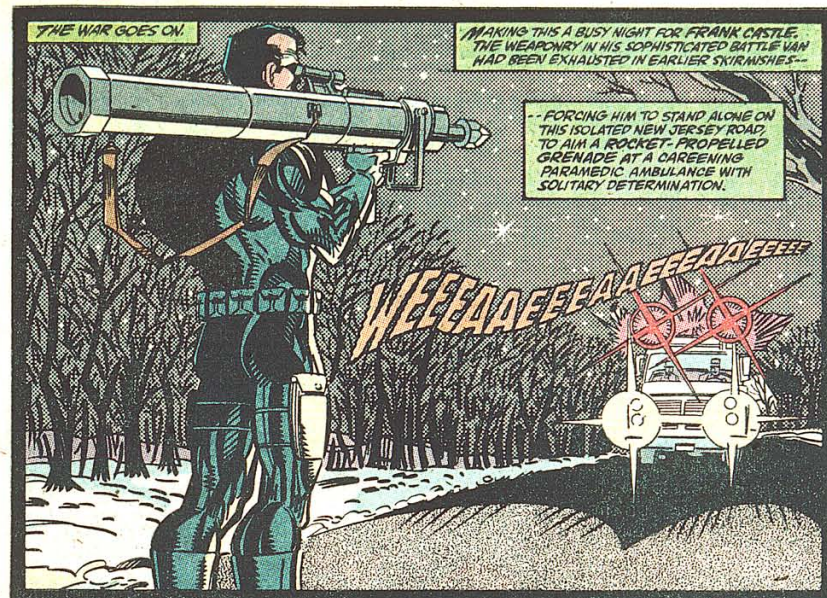
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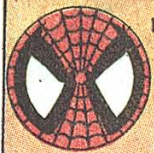
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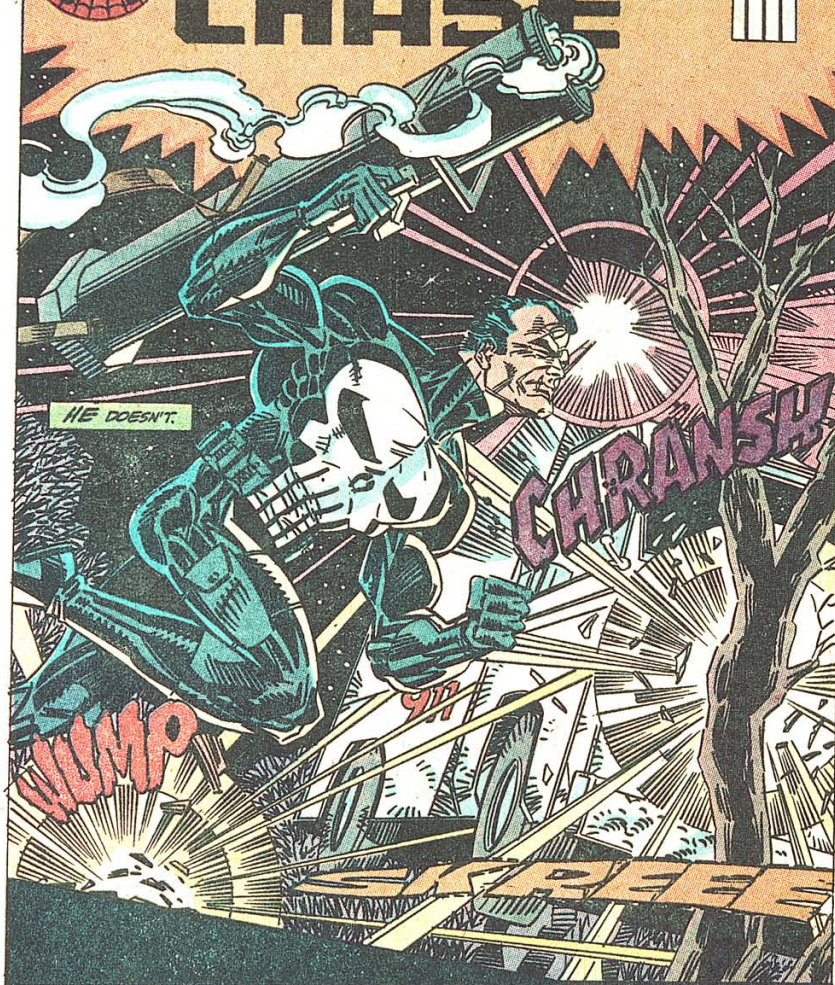


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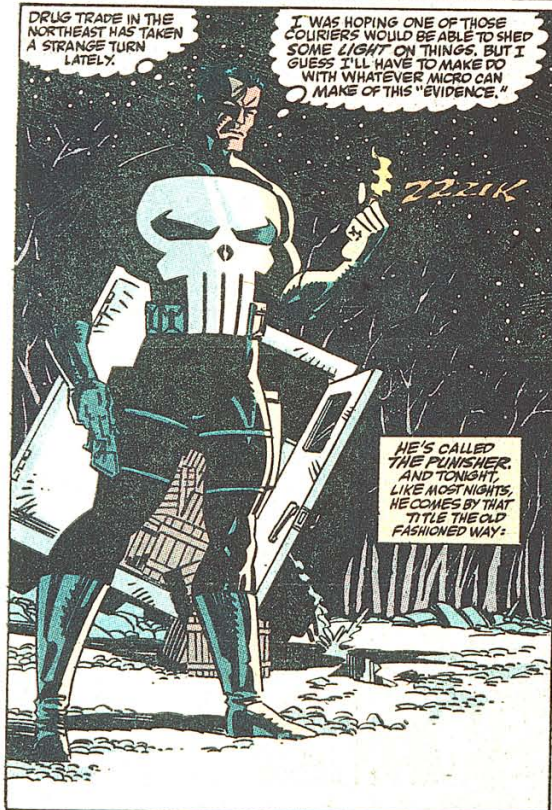
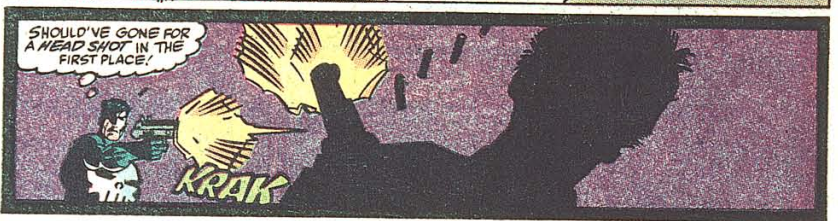


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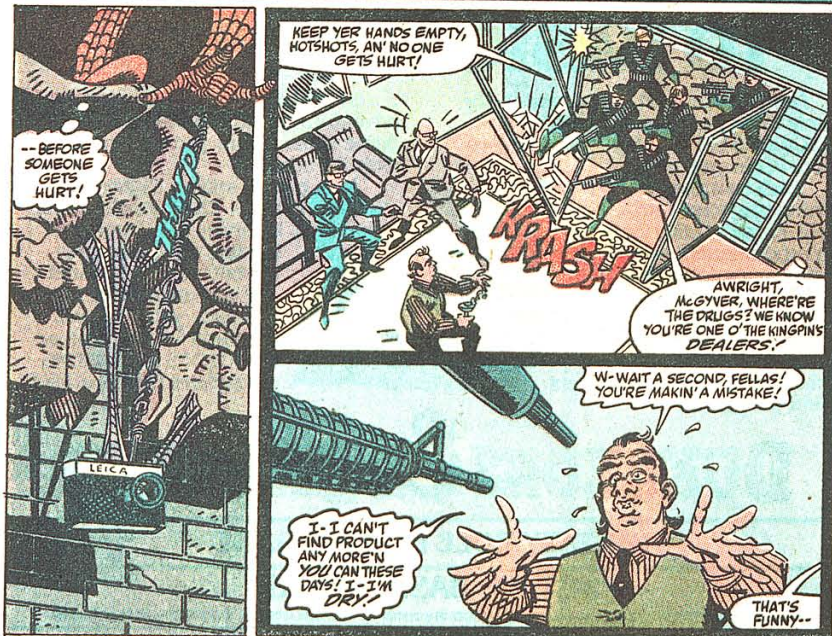
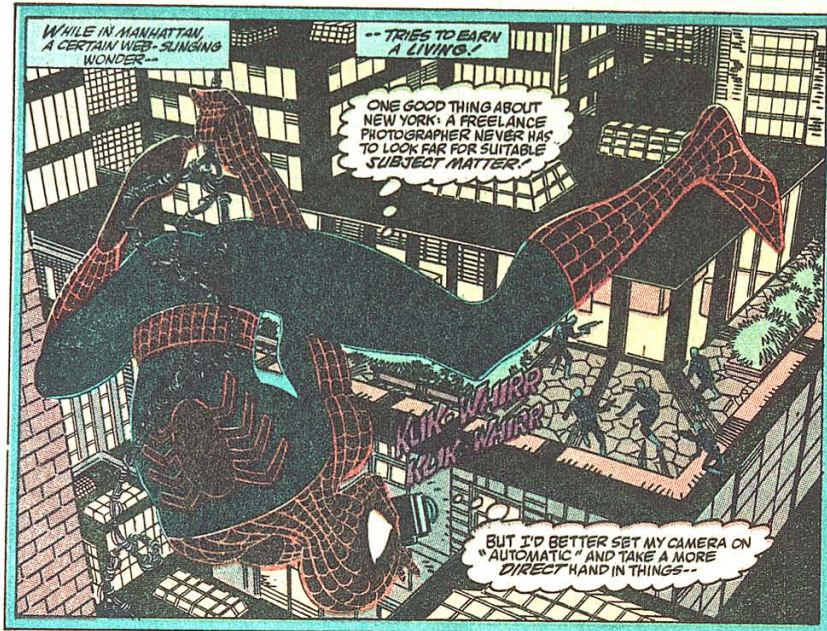
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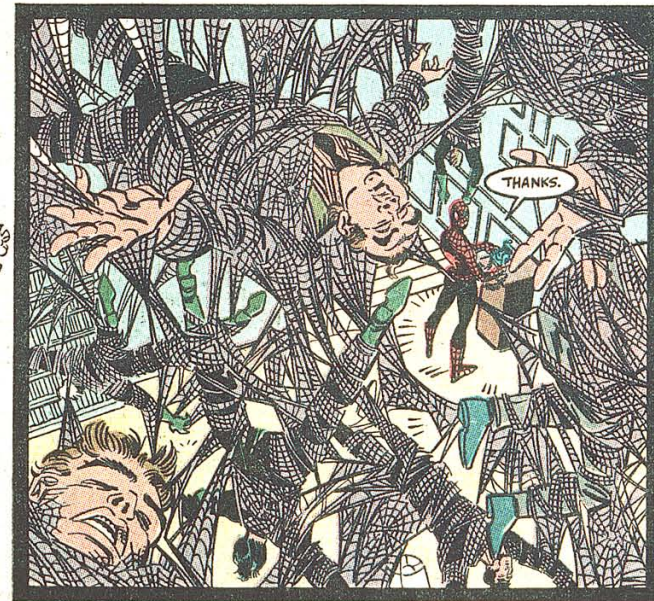
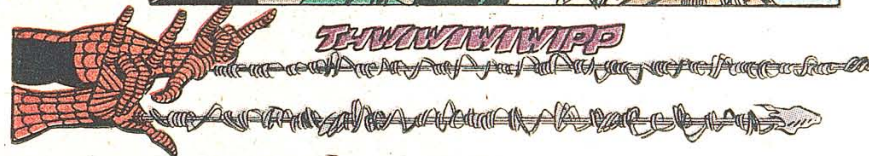
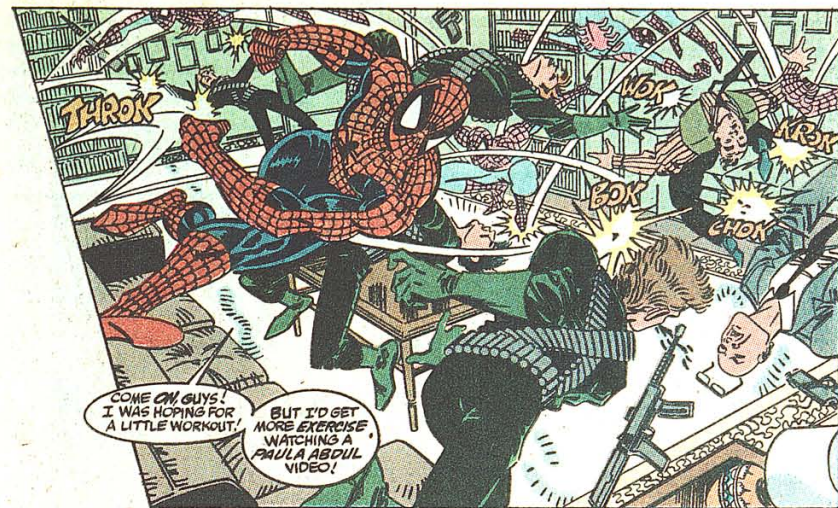
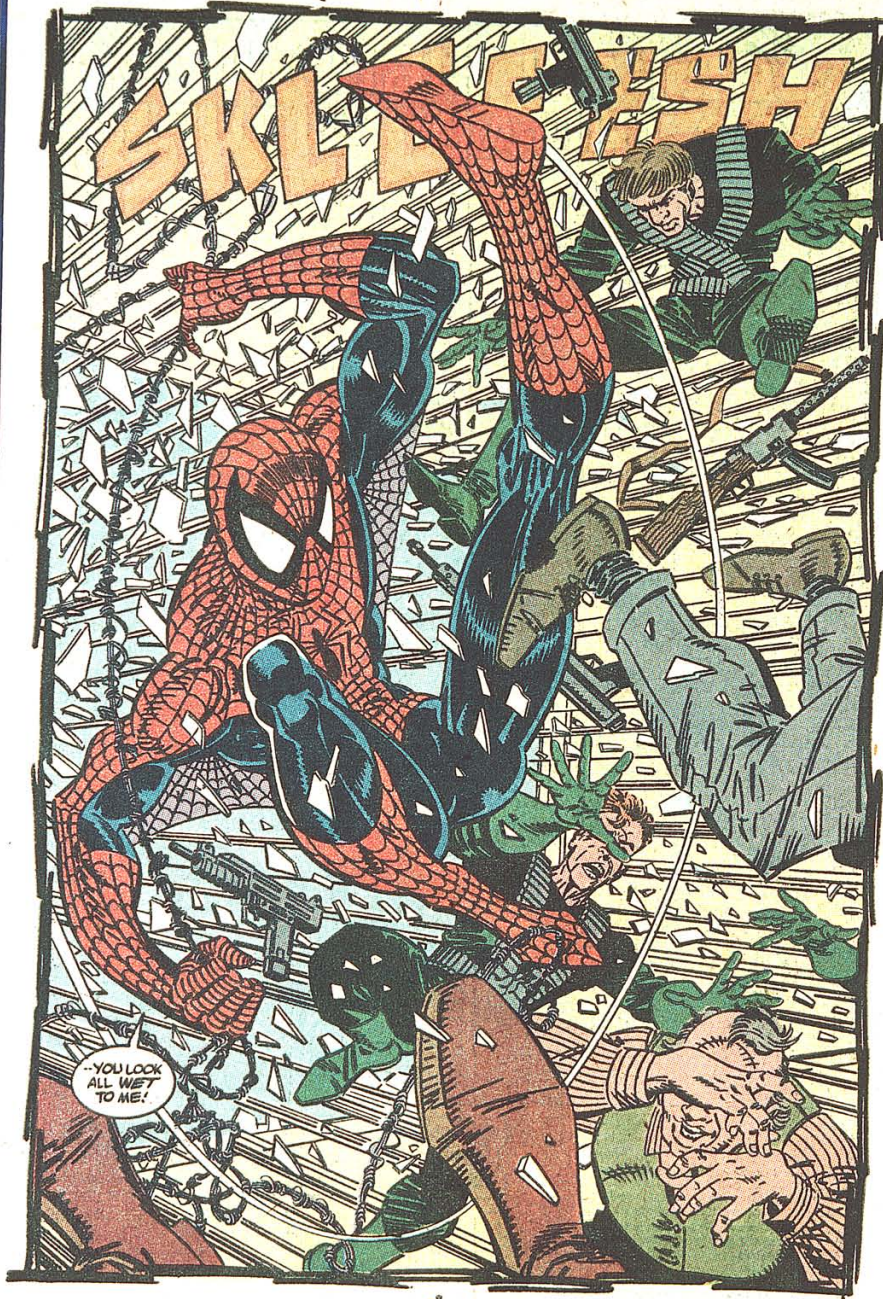
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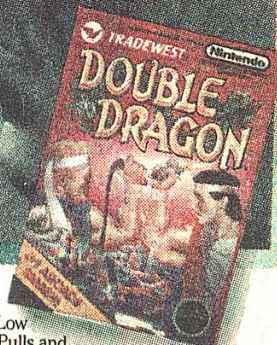
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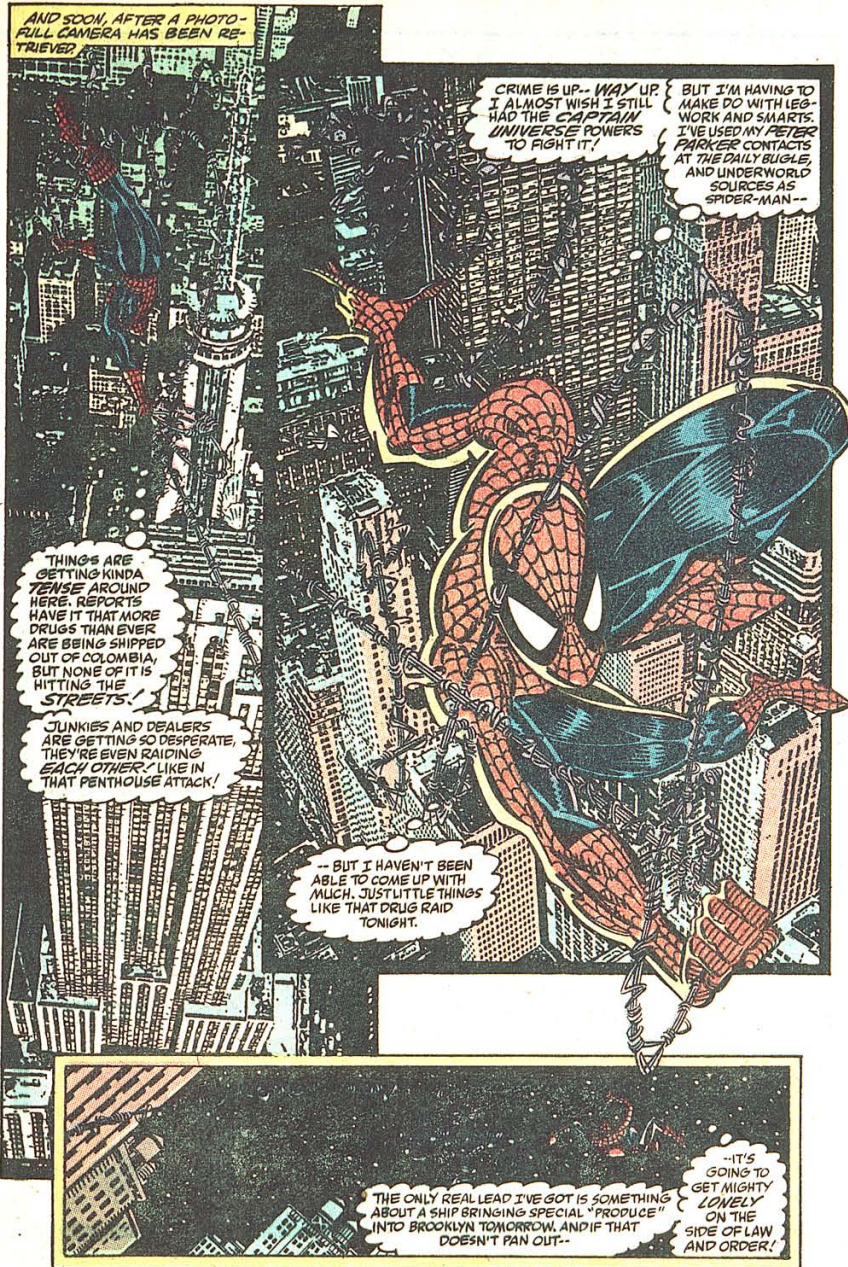
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AND SOON, AFTER A PHOTO-FULL CAMERA HAS BEEN RETRIEVED



CRIME IS UP-- WAY UP I ALMOST WISH I STILL HAD THE CAPTAIN UNIVERSE POWERS TO FIGHT IT!

BUT I'M HAVING TO MAKE DO WITH LEG-WORK AND SMARTS. I'VE USED MY PETER PARKER CONTACTS AT THE DAILY BUGLE, AND UNDERWORLD SOURCES AS SPIDER-MAN--

THINGS ARE GETTING KINDA TENSE AROUND HERE. REPORTS HAVE IT THAT MORE DRUGS THAN EVER ARE BEING SHIPPED OUT OF COLOMBIA, BUT NONE OF IT IS HITTING THE STREETS!

JUNKIES AND DEALERS ARE GETTING SO DESPERATE, THEY'RE EVEN RAIDING EACH OTHER LIKE IN THAT PENTHOUSE ATTACK!

-- BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH MUCH. JUST LITTLE THINGS LIKE THAT DRUG RAID TONIGHT.

THE ONLY REAL LEAD I'VE GOT IS SOMETHING ABOUT A SHIP BRINGING SPECIAL "PRODUCE" INTO BROOKLYN TOMORROW. AND IF THAT DOESN'T PAN OUT--

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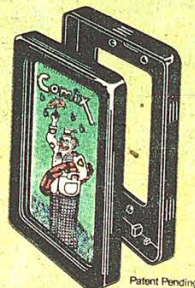
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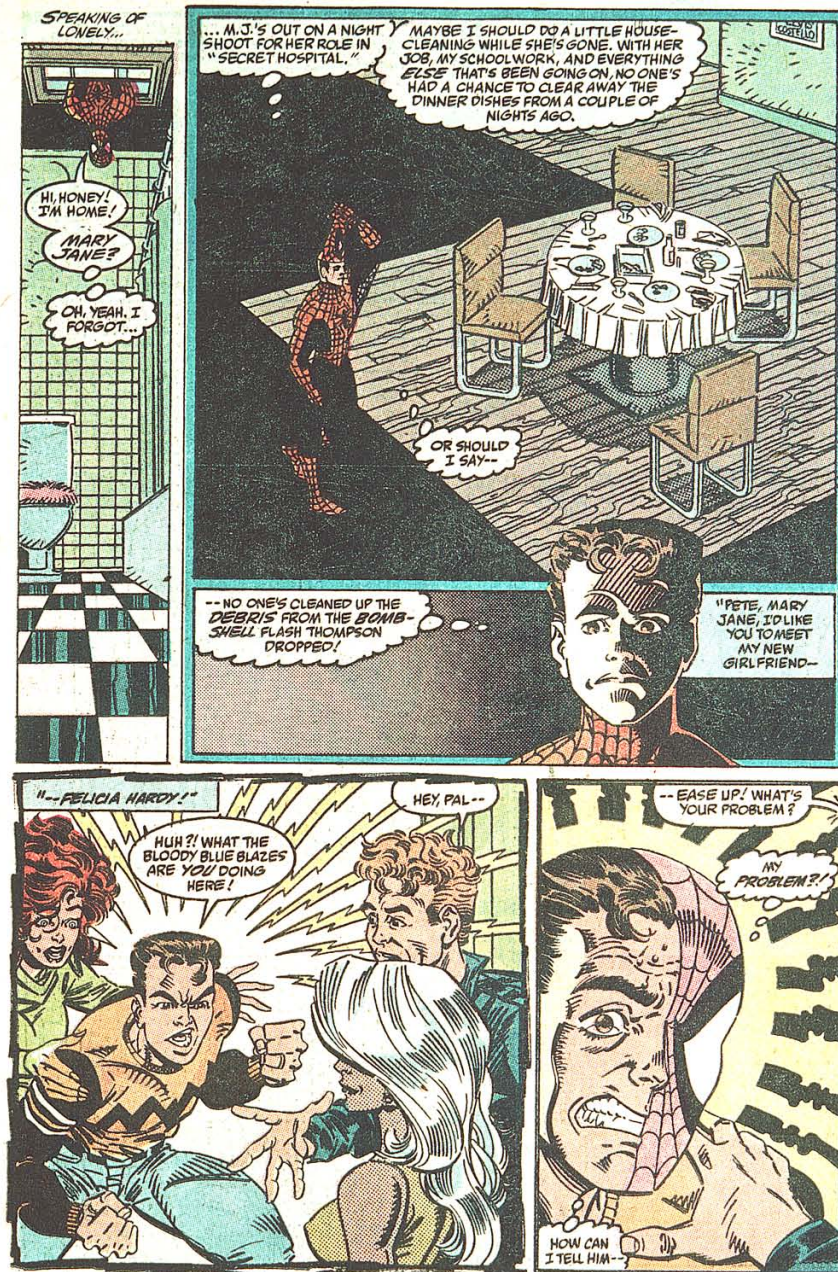
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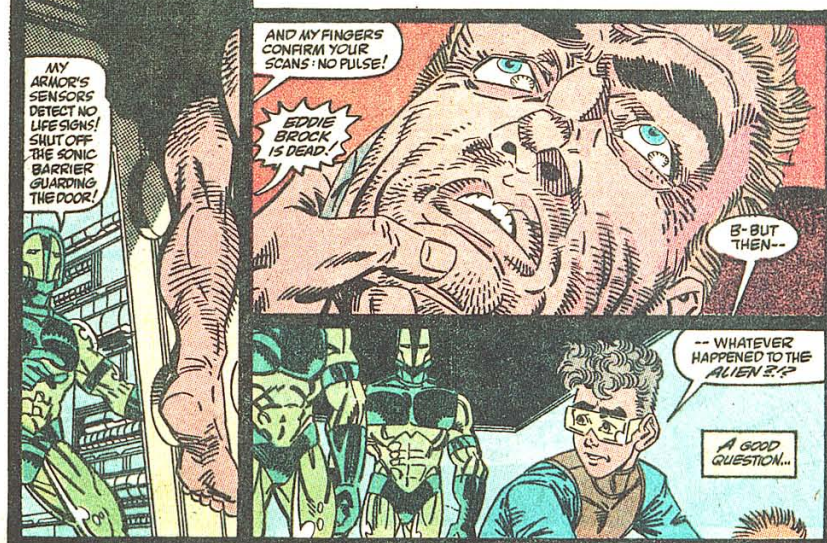
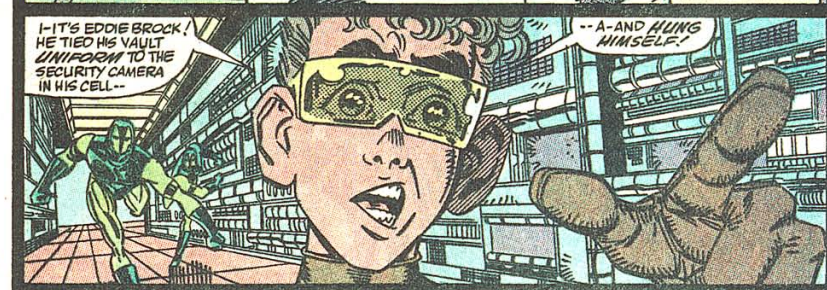
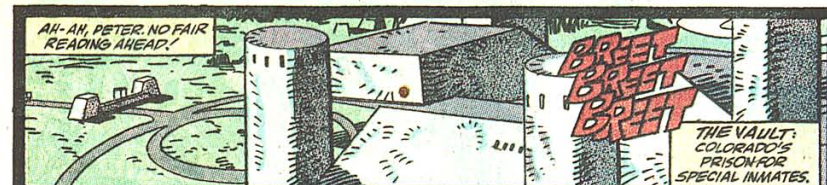
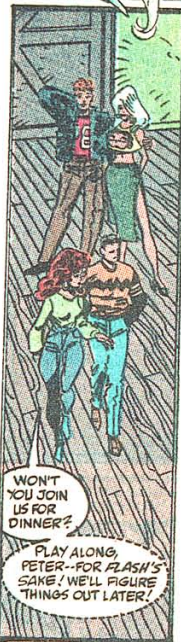
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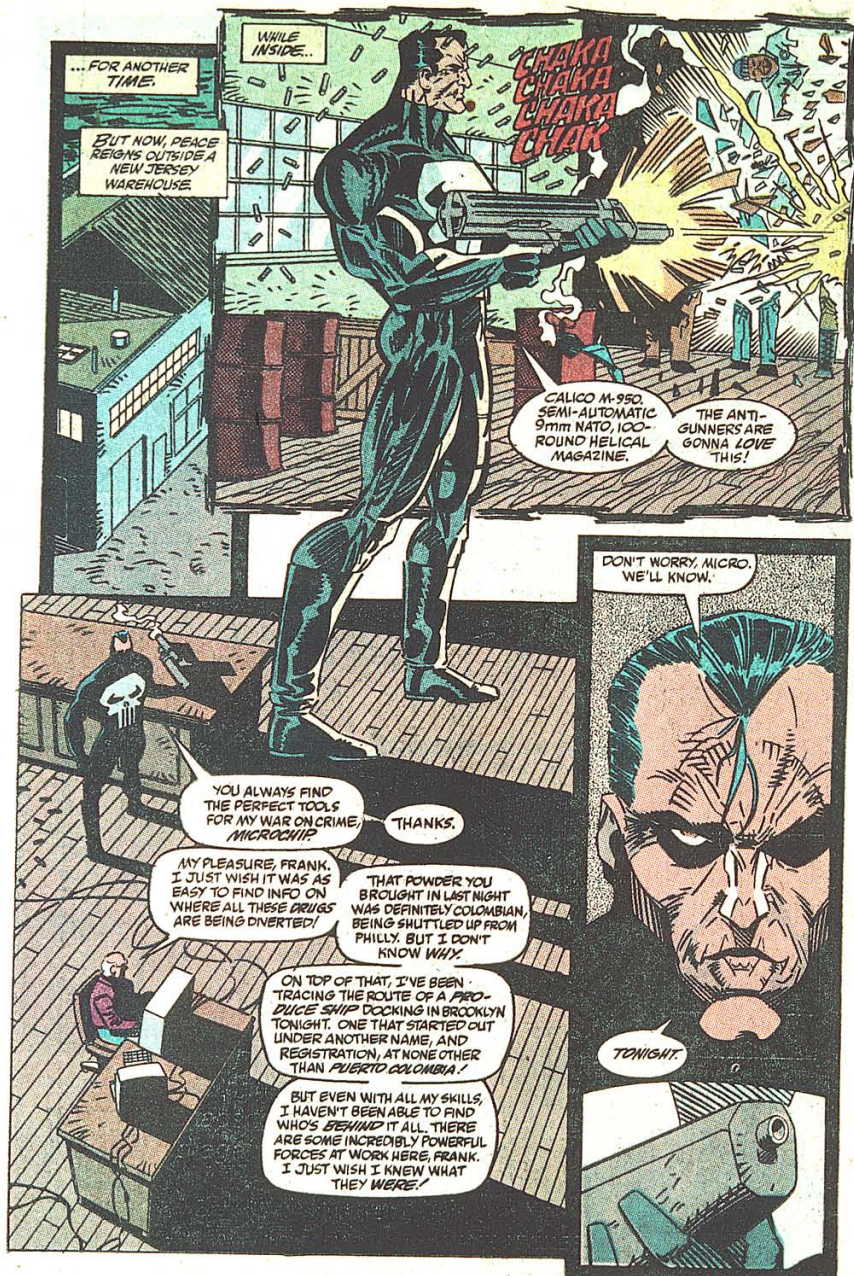
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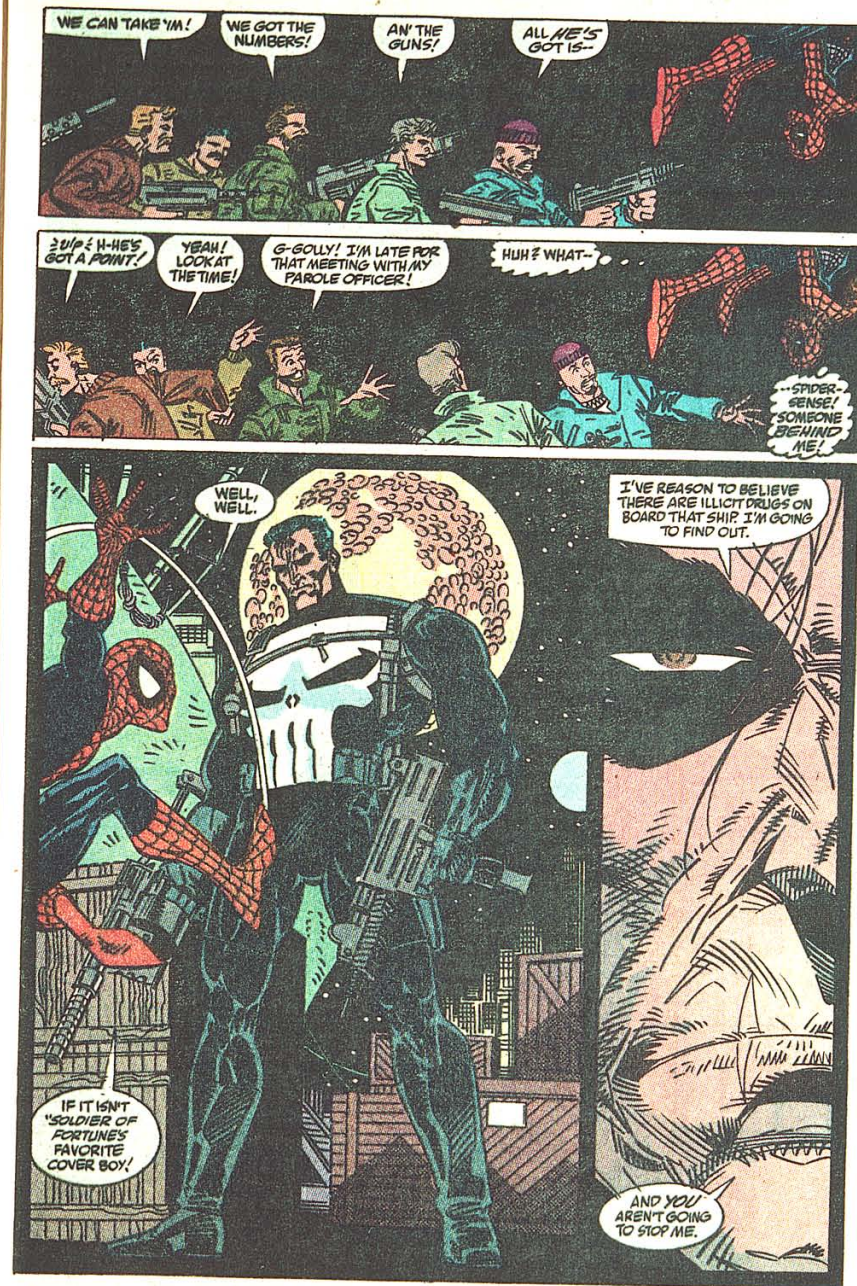
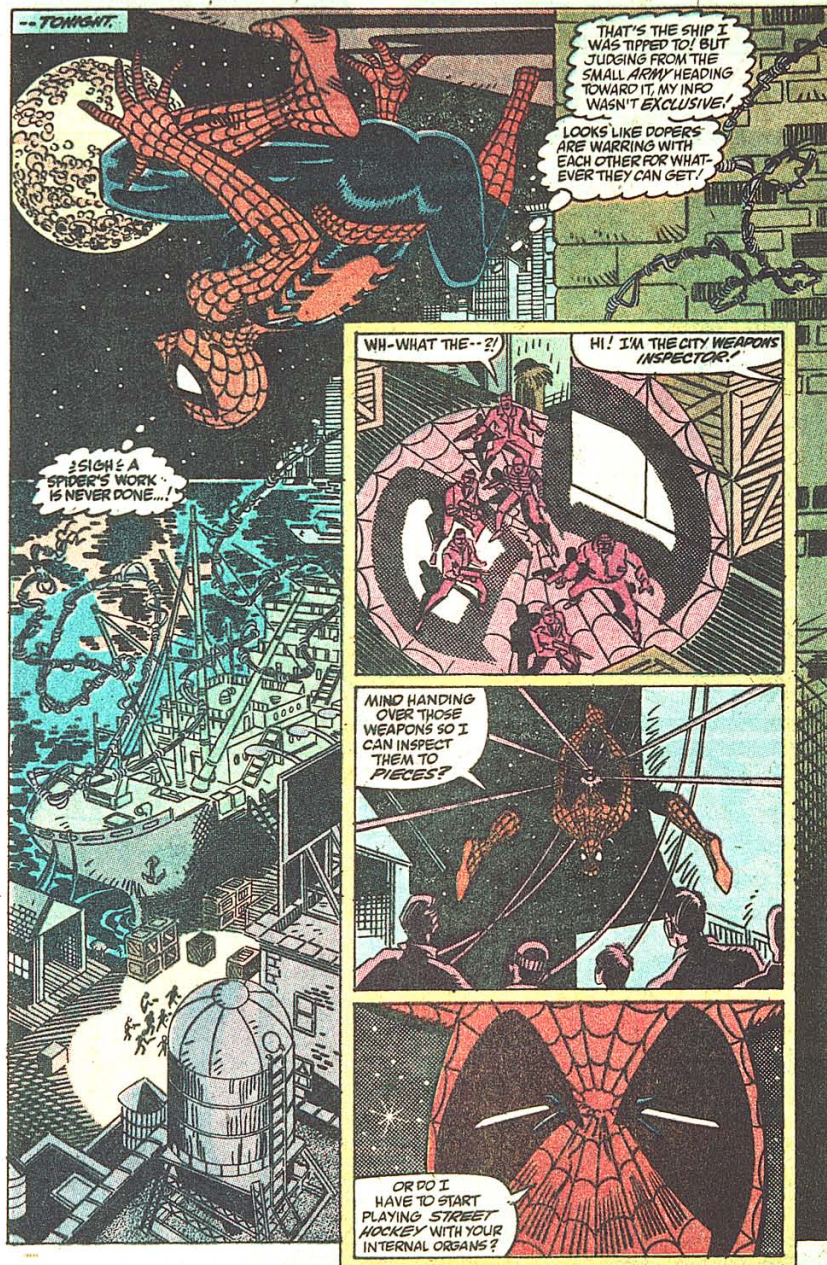


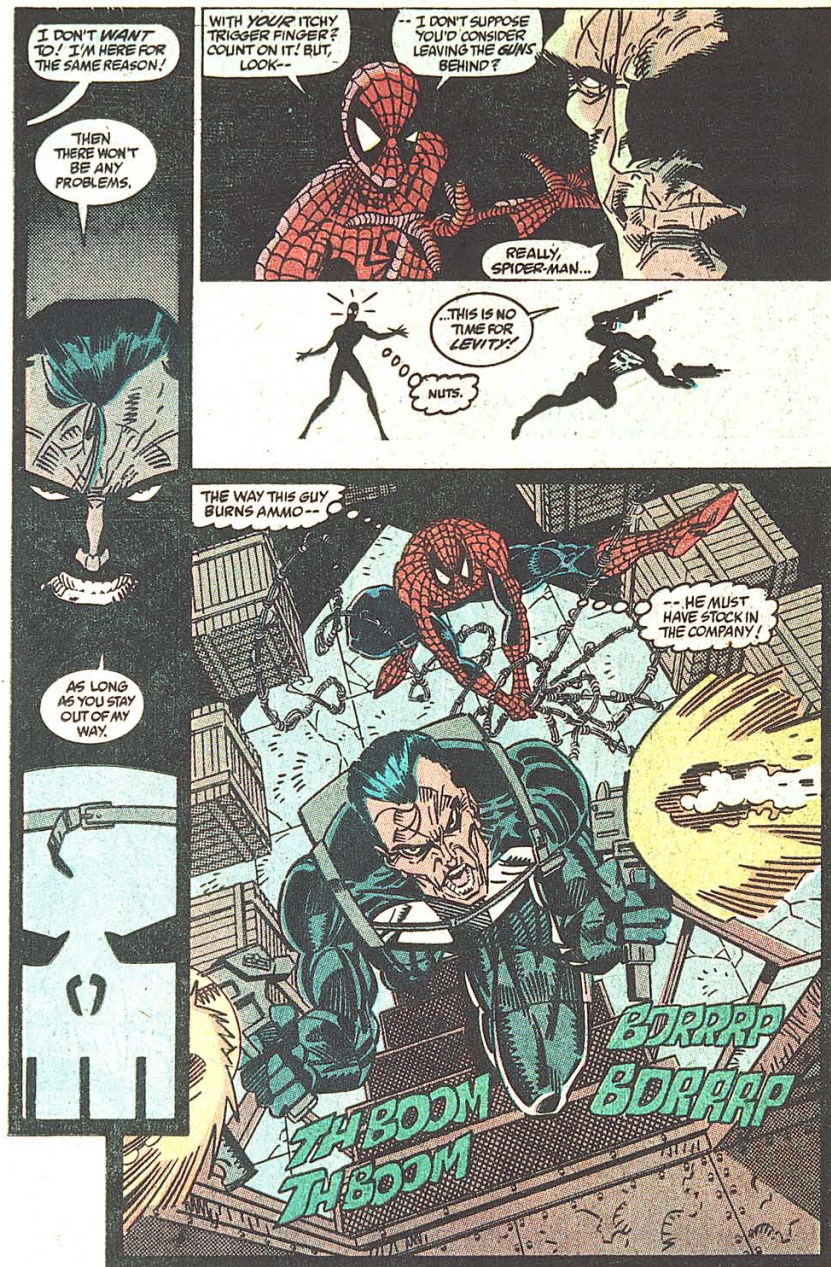
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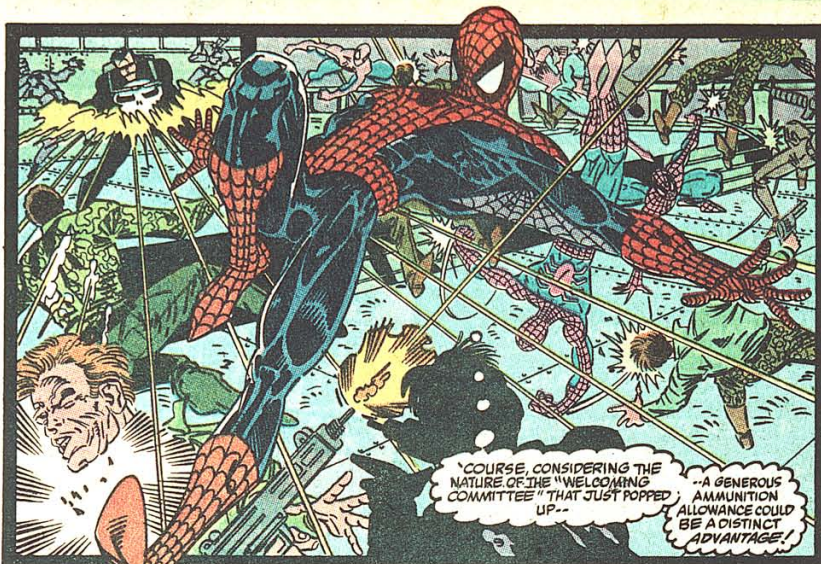
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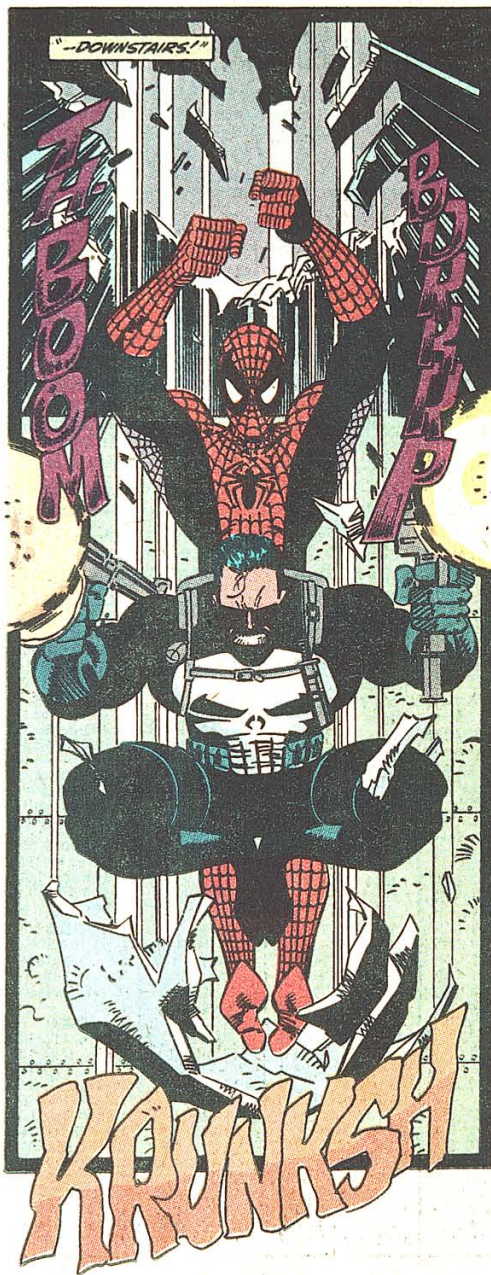
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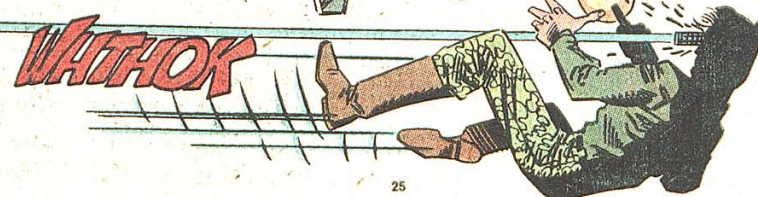
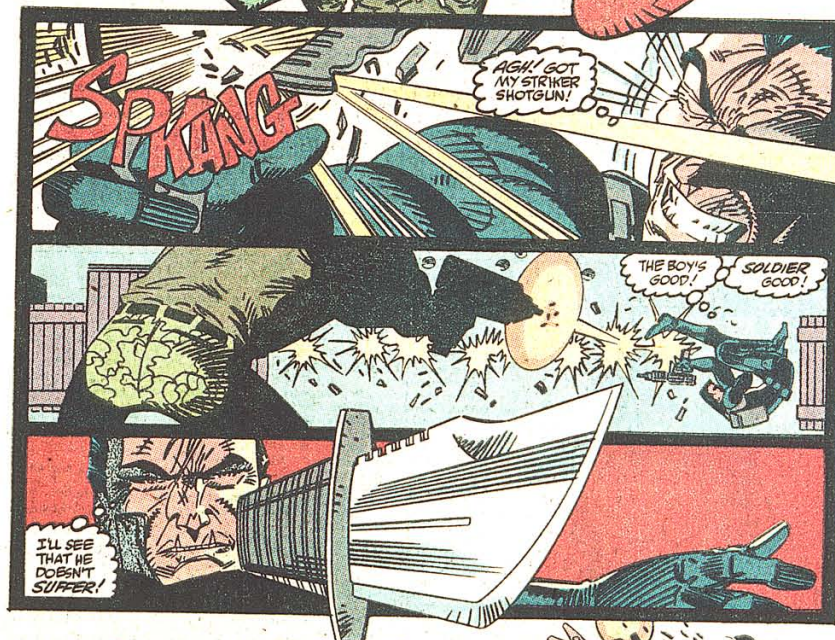
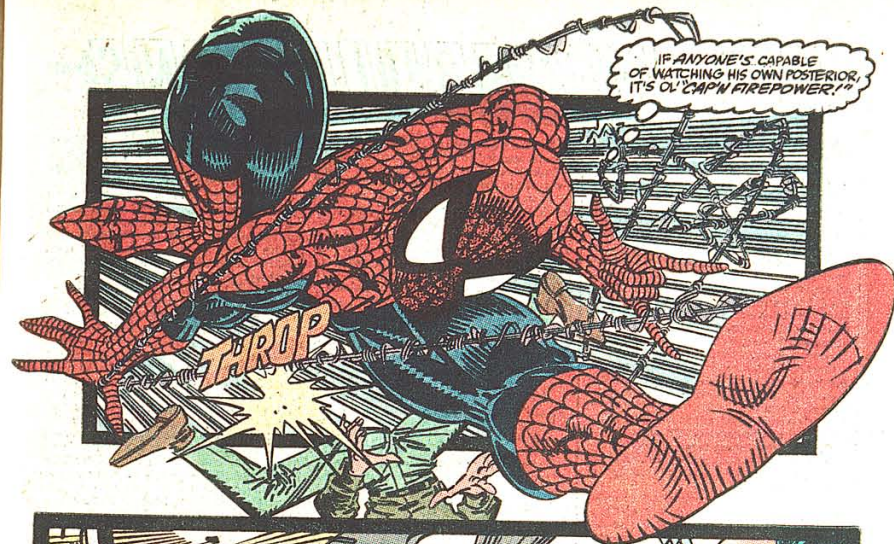
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

The way I see it, what's the point of having me at your beck and call with these senseless-staggering Soapboxes if they don't give you some top-priority news before the rest of the world gets it?

Well, I finally learned something that might be considered a scoop, so this is as good a time as any to share it with you. But remember, it's secret information, very hush-hush, and extremely privileged, so don't go blabbin' it all over town. If any DC converts happen to be reading this over your shoulder, crumple it up and swallow it before the poor, misguided souls can realize what's happening. I mean, it's the least you can do for the Bullpen that loves ya!

Okay now, here's the skinny. I happened to be wandering around the hall at New World Television, lost as usual, when Merry Michael Levine, one of my favorite TV vice-presidents, popped up and yanked me into his office, telling me he had some exciting news. It seems he had just heard from the top brass at NBC-TV that they decided to air two additional INCREDIBLE HULK TV movies! And here's the best part of all—wait! I tell you the titles!

The first two-hour spectacular will be called "The Death of the Hulk!" How about that?! Now, you're probably wondering what the second show can be after we've killed our rollickin' rampager in the first one! Well, there's really only one possibility, isn't there? I mean, what else could it be but—"The Rebirth of the Hulk"??? Those may not end up being the exact titles, but they'll give you the idea!

And there you have it, the advance announcement of the year! Think how you'll impress your friends and confound your foes with this price-less bit of tantalizing trivia! But don't embarrass me with your lavish expressions of gratitude and appreciation. Just be with us again next ish, 'cause it's lonely out here without you!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM: Next month we'll be changing two things on every Marvel Comics cover. One thing will be immediately obvious, so we won't even bother to mention it. The other isn't as obvious, so we'll let you in on it right now. For some crazy reason comic book covers have always been dated months in advance. The issue of THE UNCANNY X-MEN published in June would be dated October, for example. Starting next year, as we enter the nineties, we'll only be dating our covers one messy month in advance. So if you're the type of person who pays attention to this sort of minutiae (And what self-respecting Marvel Zombie isn't?), this explains why we've been dating issues MID-DEC or MID-NOV. It was our sneaking way of catching up with reality!

ITEM: Calling all Peter David fans! If your monthly dose of Peter's prose in THE INCREDIBLE HULK has been leaving you panting for more, you'll be glad to know that Ace Books has recently published *Howling Mad* by the self-same Mr. David. It's a werewolf story with a twist, instead of a man turning into a wolf, it's about a wolf turning into a man! Talk about high concept! We haven't read the book yet ourselves, but we're hoping when Peter sees this nifty plug he'll pass out free copies to all his Bullpen buddies.

ITEM: Speaking of books, our very own Sid Jacobson, editor of our Star line of comics, just had his second novel published by St. Martin's. It's called *Another Time* and Publisher's Weekly called it, "an absorbing tale of thwarted desire and driving ambition played out within the social turmoil of Depression-era America. Chronically the rise of Will Jaffe, a young congressman from New York, the story moves across the country, folding a dramatic turn of events that parallels the upheaval of the times. The novel's panoramic sweep encompasses the politics of Washington, the glamour of Hollywood, the tragedy of the dust bowl, and the struggles of organized labor. Set against the historic backdrop of the New Deal, and peopled with such real-life figures as Franklin D. Roosevelt and Louis Howe, the plot moves quickly, as the main characters are hounded by destructive passions."

And if you want to find out exactly what kind of destructive passions, you'll have to buy Sid's book at your favorite bookstore. So who says comic book editors can't write serious novels?

ITEM: Speaking of books, mystery writer Robert Cray recently dropped by the Bullpen to have a top-secret chat with Spider-Man editor Jim Salter and John Romita. We can tell that his latest *Elvis Cole* novel has just been published in hardcover, and that Stan Lee has this to say about the last one: "The *Monkey's Raincoat* is terrific! Not only is it a dynamite plot with more twists and turns than a corker, but the characters are absolutely sensational. I read every page with a smile on my face. Never was more sorry to see a story end. The *Monkey's Raincoat* is sheer delight from beginning to end." And that's why we call him Smilin' Stan! We'll give you one more clue about Mr. Cray's secret mission—in the new book, *Elvis* drinks from a Spider-Man coffee mug. "Nuff said for now."

ITEM: Speaking of unabashed plugs, we must mention that after 88 issues as a direct-only title (available only at selected outlets), MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE will finally be sold on newsstands everywhere beginning next month! If you haven't already checked out the official Marvel fan magazine, now's the time. Next month's issue will be previewing many of the big new projects coming your way in 1990 from Marvel, so it's an issue you won't want to miss. You'll find out about our New Series Premiere Contest, not to mention the new series themselves, plus you'll be treated to columns by Stan Lee and Mark Gruenwald, a monthly Marvel calendar, a couple of pages of Fred Hembeck craziness, the New Talent Department, and much, much more! MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, it won the COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE Fan Award for favorite publication about comics, and now you don't have an excuse for missing a single issue!

ITEM: Have a happy holiday season and a real-life figure. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Louis Howe, the plot moves quickly, as the main characters are hounded by destructive passions."

PROFILE: MARIE JAVINS

Assistant Editor on: AKIRA, ALIEN LEGION, HAVOK AND WOLVERINE, ELSEWHERE PRINCE, STAR WARS, Moebius's BLUEBERRY Graphic Novels, ELEKTRA: ACT OF LOVE

Marvel freelance credits (past): Tons o' letters pages for SILVER SURFER, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, CONAN THE BARBARIAN, ALIEN LEGION; pasting little balloons above characters' heads for the SHADOWLINE SAGA; typing PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL SCRIPTS for Carl Potts.

Marvel freelance credits (present): A 6-part Firestar series for MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS and still more letters pages.

My place of birth is: Alexandria, Virginia

People who knew me in high school thought I was: Carrie

My hobbies are: Working on my partially finished video and radio projects, swearing at boys, and buying records

My pet peeves are: Antioch College, geocentric New Yorkers, Steve Buccellato

My favorite performers are: Daniel Johnston, Glass Eye, Shonen Knife, Moe Tucker, Scrawl, X, and Red Sovine

The last good book I read was: *Women, Race, and Class* by Angela Davis

The last good movie I saw was: *Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story*

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Sandra Bernhard and Billy Mumy

My oddest habit is: Playing lead straw in an all-utensil band with my pals Wendy Howard, Marie Arnold, Thanos Fatouros, and Eugene White

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Quitting my part-time job as Jane, the Party Line Monitor

The reason I got into comics was: I wanted to get Archie Goodwin to sing Happy Birthday to me via a fish head

The biggest influences on my work include: Abigail Adams and Madonna

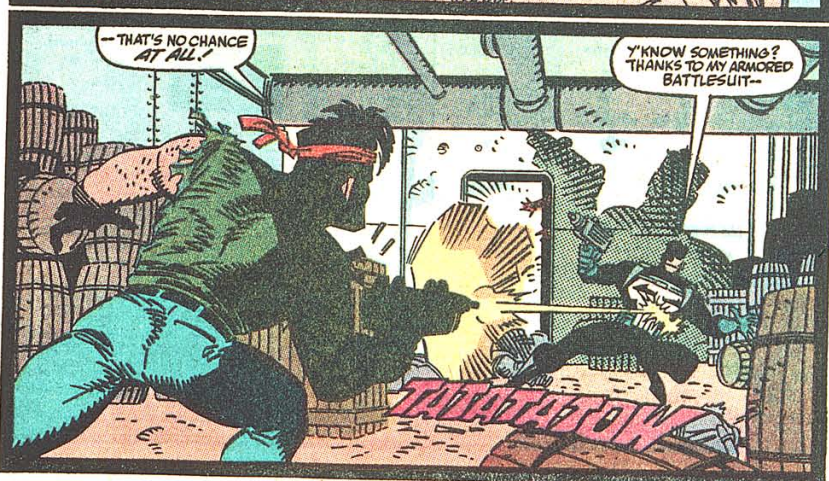
The single work of which I am most proud is: My unfinished video of a day at Marvel starring Assistant Editor David Wohl

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To get every artist in comics to draw a cow for my wall of bovines

The worst part of my job is: It doesn't pay me enough to open Manhattan's only rock 'n' roll-laundromat-bar-bowling alley

When nobody's looking I like to: Mess with Texas

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I hope this isn't my 15 minutes...



AND LATER, IN THE REFUGE OF THE RUNNERS' BUTLER VAN, AFTER SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT HAS TRANSMITTED PERTINENT DATA TO A CERTAIN WAREHOUSE IN NEW JERSEY...

MY FRIEND IS GOOD AT WHAT HE DOES, SPIDER-MAN. IF THOSE I.D. CODES CAN BE BROKEN, HE'S THE MAN TO--

I BROKE INTO A STRING OF COMPUTERS, FOLLOWING THE TRAIL FROM THAT PLASTIC CARD.

THE SYSTEMS BECAME MORE HIGHLY SECURED THE FARTHER I WENT.

TOO SECURED, EVEN FOR A DRUG CARTEL!

AND I LEARNED WHY WHEN I CRACKED THE FINAL CODE, AND DISCOVERED THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THAT CARD CARRIER.

YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THE MILITARY ANGLE. BUT HERE'S THE KICKER: THE MAN WAS ASSIGNED TO A SPECIAL COVERT CELL--

--OF THE U.S. ARMY!

I DON'T GET IT!

SEEMS SIMPLE ENOUGH SPIDER-MAN.

PUNISHER? I THINK YOU MAY HAVE STEPPED IN SOMETHING YOU HADN'T COUNTED ON.

THE "DRUG LORD" WHO'S AMASSING THE LARGEST STORE OF ILLICIT SUBSTANCES IN WORLD HISTORY IS...THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

NEXT ISSUE:

WHY?!



THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

JIM SALICRUP
ARACHNERD
DAN CUDDY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Web-spinners,
Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #320-321
When I first heard about the Assassination Plot, my immediate reaction was "Oh great another story to keep me in suspense for a whole month until the next part comes out." Well I'm happy to say I was very much mistaken. Besides the fact that this comic is bi-weekly, each book is a story all by itself. Kudos on MacFarlane's art. Well, until Katzenberg turns in his camera, Make Mine Marvel!

Eric Erickson
Rt. 1, Box 75
Grand Marais, MN 55604

That's exactly what we tried to do with the "Assassination Plot." Erik--we wanted each issue to fulfill you as a self-contained story, while individually comprising an exciting chapter in a greater storyline. Glad you liked it.

Gentlemen,
After 20 years of collecting, I think I've finally qualified for a hard-to-find No-Prize!

In issue #321 you show Silver Sable shooting one of those nefarious bad guys in the left arm (page 22). Yet that very same gentleman is holding his right arm five pages later. Now, I've heard of a bullet passing clean through, but that's ridiculous!

I know that part of receiving a No-Prize is being able to explain an apparent mistake. The only thing I could think of is that Silver Sable had to shoot the gentleman again while he was trying to escape. We just weren't privy to that scene since we were watching the rest of the action that was happening at the same time.

As always, Make Mine Marvel!

Joseph A. Dombi
La Grange, IL 60525

Actually, Joseph, the guy was dyslexic. But we'll send you a No-Prize anyway.

Guy,
I've been reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN for as long as I've been able to read, but I've refrained from commenting until now. What I really want to comment on is the writing.

Spider-Man has always had a bizarre sense of humor (something I've always appreciated) but somehow, David Michelinie makes Spidey and Peter funnier. For instance, in ish #321, Peter comments on the loft apartment "Hey, there's a skylight in the bathroom! Fabulous!" to which Harry replies, "Peter, you're weird." This scene had me rolling.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has a true sense of the outré, but what is appealing is that Spider-Man recognizes how strange the situations he finds himself in are, and makes appropriately strange comments.

I don't see this kind of humor in most other comics. It seems that artists and writers believe that they have to make a book silly to make it funny, to wit, Chris Claremont's handling of EXCALIBUR, or John Byrne's handling of SHE-HULK.

The books are funny, but at the same time, they're silly in an unappealing way.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has been very well done in the past, and I have enjoyed it very much. Yet, now the book appeals to me more than it did when I was younger, and at the same time, I feel that younger people love the comic every bit as much as I do. It's good to know that kids today can grow up with a Spider-Man who's as good if not better than he was when I was growing up.

Keep up the good work, gentlemen.

Eric Rice
1930 E. 27th #22
Oakland, CA 94606

Isn't that the true magic behind Spidey? In an age of "Dark and Gritty" and of "Silly and Absurd," the wondrous wall-crawler seems to find his niche comfortably between the two extremes.

Dear Spider-Men,
How's life? I'm writing to you about AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #321 and #322. I'm going to try my hand at getting two No-Prizes in

one letter. In AMAZING #321, panel 6, panel 3, Spidey says, "D train will get me to Queens pretty fast." Living in Queens, New York, I have to know where each subway line goes to and the "D" train does not go in to Queens. It goes from the Bronx then into Manhattan, and then ends in Brooklyn. But do not despair! I have just the explanation! Since Spidey usually gets around by swinging on webs, he's probably not familiar with the subway system and I doubt he can carry a subway map around. Well? Is it good enough?

The other mistake (ahem!) I found was in AMAZING 322, page 27, panel 3 and 4. The ULTIMATUM soldier had SIX fingers! My explanation for this mistake was that a certain Ultimatum was mutant born with six fingers! Well? Good? Not good? Hmmmm... Well, anyway they were both worth a try. MacFarlane is getting a little better. My only complaint about this art is that he draws people's faces like they were made of putty and that Spidey looks a little stiff.

Well I guess I better go... oh! I almost forgot! Hi Marco! Hi Andres! Hi (couldn't you see this coming?) Mom!

Michael Yong
141-11 59th Ave.
Flushing, NY 11355

Okay, okay, you get two No-Prizes. Sheesh, talk about greedy!

Dear Web-heads,
I love Spider-Man. I have been an avid reader for a long time, but I have a problem with AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #322. On page 9, when Spidey and Silver Sable were talking to the Prime Minister of Symkaria and he was telling about a new lead on the assassination plot, why didn't Spidey know he was lying? His spider-sense should have gone off, not because the guy was lying, but because he represents a danger to the king and an indirect danger to Spidey. If his spider-sense had gone off, Spidey would have known the Prime Minister was lying about the lead. Explain this if you can. Ha! Ha! Ha! I got you I think.

Jim Ellison
5056 Aster Lane
Yorba Linda, CA 92686

Don't confuse the web-head with ol' hornhead in the red costume who can determine a lie by listening to the culprit's heartbeat. Spidey's spider-sense is a tricky thing which even he doesn't fully understand. Although it has reacted to potential danger in the past, it usually only warns him about immediate danger affecting him personally. Spidey was never in any real harm from the PRIME MINISTER at that point.

Dear Jim and Glenn,
After reading Stan Lee's letter in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #322 I am an angry, disillusioned, and confused young man. I, like many comic readers, have a certain kind of respect, even awe for the great creative minds in modern comic books. Thus I have always imagined Stan Lee as the head of a great pantheon of Marvel deities, with Tom DeFalco as his Mighty Son, Mark Gruenwald as the Mighty Tom's evil half-brother, and the other writers and artists filling out the rolls. (Most editors, incidentally, envision as gigantic evil trolls living in the icy cold offices of Sniffleheim.)

But in his letter Stan the Man himself says he doesn't read Spider-Man?! This is like saying Ray Kroc never ate at McDonald's, like saying Sam Walton doesn't like shopping at Wal-Mart. This is like saying Mary Jane Watson hates spiders!

I point to the fact that no street address was given as incontrovertible proof that the letter was forged by a disgruntled former Marvel Comics employee in an attempt to sabotage the reputation of Marvel's Peerless Publisher. Shame on you for not seeing through so simple a ploy.

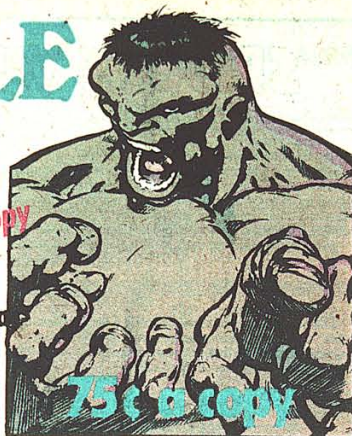
Herman "Hermit" Wilson
8208 Briarwood Ln.
Austin, TX 78758

Sorry, Herm, but if you're a regular reader of Stan's Soapbox in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, then you already know that Stan would love to read every issue Marvel puts out, but he just doesn't have the time. It's also ironic that Spidey's creator has never been ashamed to ask our esteemed Arachnerd for his input on the daily Spider-Man comic strip.

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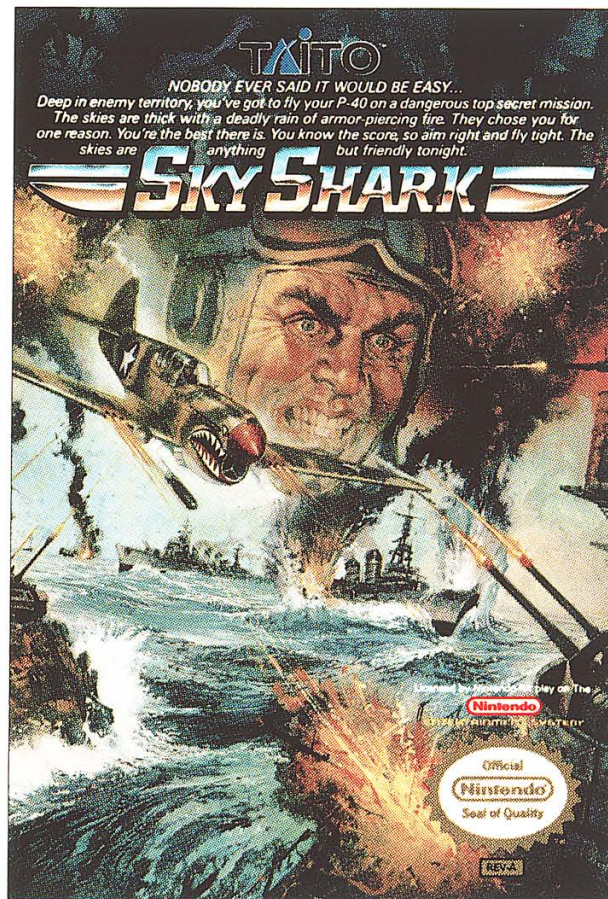
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